

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 12-16, 19, 22, 23, 30-32, 34, 36-42 and 49-52 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 30 are the independent claims. Claims 6, 8, 33, 35 and 43-48 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

The Examiner's indication that claims 8 and 35-36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the interfacing mating portions of the first, second and third portions of the multi-axial chuck as recited in claim 8 and accordingly is believed allowable. Claims 2, 4, 12-16, 19, 22, 23 and 49-51 depend from amended claim 1 and, therefore, also are believed also allowable.

Claim 30 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 35 and accordingly is believed allowable. Claims 31, 32, 34, 36-42 and 52 depend from and include all of the features of amended claim 30 and, therefore, also are believed allowable.

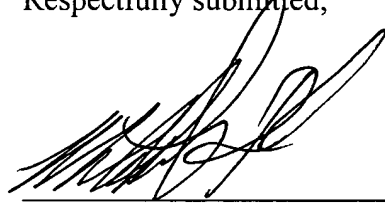
The outstanding rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 are rendered moot by the amendment which has been made to expedite allowance, without concession of the applicability of the cited references.

New claims 49-52 have been added. Claims 49-51 depend claim 1 and claim 52 depends from and includes all of the features of allowable claim 30. Therefore, claims 49-52 are believed allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that the application now is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss remaining issues, if there are any. The Commissioner hereby is authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

8/4/06
Date



Mitchell P. Brook
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 32,967
c/o Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP
11988 El Camino Real, Suite 200
San Diego, California 92130
Telephone: (858) 720-6300

3726941.1